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tinental Europe ; but the principles which they are made to elucidate belong equally to all Christendom. The book ought to be read with peculiar interest here ; for the author is a strenuous advocate of the largest religious liberty. To his eye, too, the signs of the times favor freedom ; for he beholds the association principle on the ascendant, while it is the death-spasms that give a brief strength to the pontifical and hierarchical element.

12. — *Sermons on Various Subjects, written and preached at different Places and Times, during his Public Ministry of Forty-four Years.*

By ADAM EMPIE, D. D., late Rector of St. James's Church, Richmond, Virginia. New York : Dana & Co. 1856. 24mo. pp. 511.

THE Preface to this volume makes the author an object of sympathy and reverence. Almost all the sermons bear dates prior to 1818, since which period impaired health has compelled Dr. Empie to be in great part an *ex tempore* preacher. He yet remained for thirty-five years longer in the diligent and earnest discharge of the duties of his sacred office, to which, till growing infirmity forbade their continuance, he was also obliged to annex the labors of an instructor. Now disabled for public service, and prevented, as he says, by "diseased eyes and half-paralyzed fingers," from performing the task of revision, he yet cannot persuade himself to remain inactive, and publishes these Sermons, most manifestly with no thought of fame, but that he may still plead with those who were wont to listen to him, in behalf of the great themes of Christian faith and duty. Tried by the standard which this personal narrative affords, the discourses are worthy of the highest praise. They display neither surpassing genius nor extraordinary erudition ; but they are chaste in style, elevated in thought, fervent in feeling, direct in appeal, and redolent throughout of a spirit self-consecrated to the noblest ends. These characteristics give them (their age considered) a wonderful freshness and timeliness, — properties which do not attach themselves to vague and purposeless religious harangues, but which cleave permanently to discourses that had a close adaptation to the time when and the place where they first did service ; for, human nature and its needs remaining essentially unchanged, the sermon which has once successfully met those needs cannot easily be out of place or grow obsolete.